



*Think Green ...reduce, reuse, recycle, reject, react!*

Switch to a Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb and use 75% less energy than a regular light bulb and it lasts 6-10 times longer!

Learn more ways you can help save energy & protect our environment!  
Visit us at: [www.vinelandcity.org/recycle.html](http://www.vinelandcity.org/recycle.html)



### **Compact Fluorescent Lights-CFLs**

This type of light bulb uses a fraction of the electricity used by incandescent light bulbs. CFLs are becoming a household name for many reasons, including the attention given to them by Congress. Due to their inefficient use of energy, incandescent bulbs (standard light bulbs) will be banned by Congress, starting in 2012, with a complete phase out by 2014; even existing halogen bulbs won't meet Congress' new mandate to make all bulbs 70% more efficient by 2020.

**Facts about CFLs:** Sealed within the glass tubing of CFLs, is a very small amount of mercury. On average, CFLs contain only four milligrams of mercury – about the same amount that would fit on the tip of a ballpoint pen. This may seem high to some, but keep in mind that old thermometers contained about 500 milligrams of mercury. Mercury allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact or not being used. Like other light bulbs, CFLs are made of glass and can break. Be careful when removing a CFL from its packaging, installing a new one into a lamp or fixture, or replacing one once it burns out. Always hold the base of the bulb, not the glass, when screwing and unscrewing it. Don't force the bulb into the socket. If a CFL breaks in your home, follow the clean-up recommendations provided by the EPA. Used CFLs should be properly disposed of through recycling. The EPA recommends that burnt out CFLs are returned to local recycling centers or household hazardous waste events that accept CFLs.

### **How to Recycle your used light bulbs:**

1. Be careful to package light bulbs ensuring they don't break in transport. This could release toxins.
2. An easy way to store used light bulbs for recycling is to box them in the packaging they came in.
3. Store your old lamps until you can bring them to a Household Hazardous Waste Clean Up Day. They are no longer accepted at the Public Works Yard or the Material Handling Facility.

### **What to do if you break a CFL:**

- **Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up.**
- Carefully scoop up the broken glass and powder using stiff paper such as cardstock, cardboard or paperboard.
- Place the broken pieces and powder in a glass jar with a lid or a plastic bag that can be sealed.
- Use duct tape to pick up any leftover glass fragments and/or powder.
- Wipe the area clean with disposable wet wipes or a dampened paper towel. Place the used wipes or paper towel into the glass jar or plastic bag.
- If you should break it on a carpet then follow the directions above. Once you have picked up as much material as possible, a vacuum may be used to collect the remaining debris. Remove the vacuum bag (or empty and clean the canister) and place the bag or vacuum debris in a plastic bag that can be sealed.

(Information obtained from US EPA and Earth911)